

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**ORIGINAL**

Before The Honorable YVONNE GONZALEZ ROGERS, Judge

Windy City Innovations, LLC, )

**Case Management  
Conference**

Plaintiff, )

VS. )

NO. C 16-01730YGR

Facebook, Inc., )

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Defendant. )

Oakland, California

Monday, February 12, 2018

**REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

**APPEARANCES:**

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Monday, February 12, 2018

2:09 p.m.

P R O C E E D I N G S

**THE CLERK:** Calling civil action 16-1730, Windy City Innovations versus Facebook, Inc.

Counsel, please come forward and state your appearances.

**MR. CALDWELL:** Good afternoon. Brad Caldwell, and with me, my colleague Warren McCarty on behalf of Windy City. And also with us is Ms. Jennifer Gilbert. And we're ready to proceed, Your Honor.

**THE COURT:** All right. Good afternoon.

**MR. MORTON:** Good afternoon. Phillip Morton on behalf of defendant Facebook Inc. And with me is Heidi Keefe.

**THE COURT:** Okay. Good afternoon.

**MS. KEEFE:** Good afternoon, Your Honor.

**THE COURT:** Okay. You need a schedule. The defendants' request to stay is denied. The plaintiff's request to expand is denied.

We're going to move this case forward in the manner in which it is currently postured. And that's the way it's going to be.

So if someone actually takes your appeal, let me know. Otherwise, let's get with it.

So looking at that proposed schedule, any comments?

**MR. CALDWELL:** Not from the plaintiff, Your Honor, other than I think that the parties agreed on the middle

1 column there, so I don't --

2 **MR. MORTON:** Yeah. Yes, that's true. We -- We've  
3 agreed on all the dates. And then subject to your -- to Your  
4 Honor's convenience, we need to set a *Markman* date.

5 **THE COURT:** Right. Okay. So you'll get your -- and  
6 we'll just go through these to make sure that you didn't give  
7 me a Saturday or Sunday, which sometimes happens in your rush.

8 Exchange of proposed terms, February 26. Preliminary  
9 constructions, March 19th. Damages contentions, April 3rd.

10 By the way, what is your preliminary damages estimate as  
11 you're required to provide us at this time under the local  
12 rules?

13 **MR. CALDWELL:** I don't know, Your Honor. I --

14 **MR. McCARTY:** Your Honor, preliminary damages  
15 estimate will be based on the licensing history of the  
16 technology of the patents, of which there are now three  
17 licensees. And as far as a specific number, Your Honor? Is  
18 that what you're looking for?

19 **THE COURT:** Yeah, that's what's required by our rules  
20 now.

21 **MR. McCARTY:** So under the current framework of the  
22 licensing policy that our client has established, \$25 million.

23 (Off-the-record discussion.)

24 **MR. McCARTY:** Warren McCarty on behalf of the  
25 plaintiff.

1           **THE CLERK:** And can you tip your mic up because  
2           you're tall. There you are. Thank you.

3           **THE COURT:** Okay. 25 million for what is left and  
4           what is currently being litigated?

5           So we've got three patents. I didn't count the number of  
6           claims.

7           **MR. McCARTY:** Yes, Your Honor. That's -- That's  
8           right.

9           **MR. MORTON:** Your Honor, I believe there are two  
10          patents left, and there are nine claims.

11          **THE COURT:** Okay. Then in my rush, maybe I misread  
12          this. I've got the '245, the '552 and '657?

13          **MR. MORTON:** Your Honor, the '552 does not have any  
14          asserted claims --

15          **THE COURT:** Oh, I see.

16          **MR. MORTON:** -- currently.

17          **THE COURT:** Yes, you're right.

18                               (Simultaneous colloquy.)

19          **MR. MORTON:** After the IPR's.

20          **THE COURT:** Perfect. Okay. Thank you.

21          Okay. Joint claim construction and prehearing statement,  
22          that's April 13th. Responsive damages contentions, May 3rd.  
23          Completion of claim construction, May 14th. Opening briefs,  
24          May 28th. ECF is open. We are closed.

25          June 11th is responsive briefs. June 18th is the reply.

(Pause in the proceedings.)

**THE COURT:** I'm not going to be here. You want an extra week?

Do you want an extra week for your reply briefs?

**MR. CALDWELL:** For our -- if --

**THE COURT:** I won't be here, so I'm not looking at it.

**MR. CALDWELL:** Yes, Your Honor, then certainly if there's going to be an extra week built in anyway before --

**THE COURT:** All right. So then we do the technology tutorial. We're looking at July.

Okay. How about the 13th? 9:00 a.m.?

**MR. MORTON:** That's acceptable to defendant, Your Honor.

**MR. CALDWELL:** Sounds good to us, Your Honor.

**THE COURT:** Okay.

And then we can do the *Markman* two weeks later on the 27th. Does that work?

**MR. CALDWELL:** That I believe works for us, Your Honor.

**MR. MORTON:** That works for defendant, Your Honor.

**MR. CALDWELL:** Is there a certain time that, Your Honor, typically starts a *Markman*?

**THE COURT:** 9:00 a.m.

Okay. And then everything else will flow from service of

1 the *Markman* order --

2 **MR. CALDWELL:** Yes, Your Honor.

3 **THE COURT:** -- which is fine.

4 I'm not going to give you a trial date yet. And what I  
5 will do with respect to summary judgment, we'll have a  
6 discussion before -- I'll probably -- once the *Markman* goes  
7 out, I'll give you a case management conference and you'll  
8 come back in so we can talk about the briefing on the summary  
9 judgments.

10 The way I structure that depends on what it is that's  
11 left, who's making -- whether they're cross-motions or not.  
12 If I do cross-motions, then I -- I frame it so that I have one  
13 less brief, but we can talk through that.

14 Let's -- Let me just give you an overview of how I do  
15 claim construction and the tutorial 'cause I don't think I'll  
16 see you before then.

17 In terms of tutorial, it doesn't matter to me whether the  
18 lawyers do the presentation or the experts. I'm just really  
19 interested in learning what it is you have to teach me.  
20 Sometimes the experts have done a great job. Sometimes they  
21 haven't.

22 Perhaps that's not a bad thing for you to figure out if  
23 your expert can't communicate because while I may not be a  
24 rocket scientist, I think that I generally am about as smart  
25 as the jurors. So if they can't teach me, then likelihood

1 that they're going to teach the jurors is probably low.

2 One of the things that I do is, so that I make sure I  
3 understand, I will sometimes have both experts up there, and I  
4 will question them back and forth until I know that I  
5 understand what it is that they're coming from and where the  
6 disagreements are.

7 So all of that is off the record. That is, I mean, we'll  
8 still keep a record, but you cannot use it in any of your  
9 briefing, et cetera, and you will be sanctioned if you do.

10 Okay?

11 In terms of the claim construction, I've rarely gone  
12 beyond three hours. That's about all I can take. You have --  
13 You get ten terms. That's all I'll construe.

14 My office is a public office. And this is one case. I  
15 have 300. So you only get so much of my time. Make sure to  
16 choose wisely.

17 And, again, what we will do is we'll take them from the  
18 most important to the least important so you'll be able to  
19 argue. If you're making presentations, I would suggest that  
20 you -- you divide them up by term because I will go back and  
21 forth with you all until I'm satisfied. And put the most  
22 important first because some lawyers keep talking and then  
23 they run out of time and they don't get to argue the ones at  
24 the end, so you're going to have to manage your time pretty  
25 well.

1 All right?

2 Back on the tutorial, the thing I forgot to tell you, it's  
3 not good or bad. It's not an indication of -- that I believe  
4 in a defense case versus a plaintiff's case. I have to  
5 understand the forest before I understand the trees. That's  
6 just way I think.

7 And what I've found is that that typically means the  
8 defense goes first because they want to tell me what everybody  
9 knew about the technology and the whole history of everything,  
10 and then the plaintiffs usually want to say, no, this is very  
11 innovative; it was very particular, et cetera.

12 And that's all fine, but in terms of how I think, I tend  
13 to -- need to understand the forest before I go get into the  
14 trees. Okay?

15 Damages and trial. I'm giving you -- telling you this now  
16 so that you don't complain later. I haven't spent much time  
17 with your patents, so I'm not exactly sure what it is or how  
18 you think you're going to try this case if we ever get there.

19 But I have excluded wonderful presentations, technology  
20 kind of recreations of how the technology works, I've excluded  
21 them from trial in patent cases when they're raised at the  
22 last minute.

23 Why? Because, you know, the proponent typically says,  
24 but, judge, it's just a demonstrative. My view, no, it's not  
25 really a demonstrative. It's more a reenactment. You're



1 trying to -- and, again, this may or may not apply to your  
2 case, but you all do patent cases so perhaps it applies to  
3 another. You're somehow trying to show a jury how it is the  
4 technology works or what the innovation is. And if you're  
5 going to do that, that's great because jurors have a hard time  
6 understanding technology.

7 But you better figure out what it is and how it is you  
8 want to disclose it and then you better disclose it to the  
9 other side so that they can take a deposition or they can  
10 really challenge the accuracy of whatever it is you're  
11 attempting to show the jury.

12 If you do not do it, I don't care how much it costs you, I  
13 will exclude it.

14 The other thing, you better identify and have subject to  
15 disposition any in-house expert. Again, I've excluded  
16 testimony of in-house experts where I have excluded the expert  
17 who was disclosed and then because that expert was disclosed,  
18 the side who was on the losing side tries to bring in the  
19 in-house person as an end-run against my order claiming that  
20 they're fact witnesses.

21 Again, doesn't work for me. They'll be excluded. Okay?

22 **MR. CALDWELL:** Okay.

23 **THE COURT:** Another issue with respect to juries and  
24 trials and damages. You don't get two bites at the apple with  
25 me on damages. There are many judges who will say, if a

1     *Daubert* is brought, that, you know, the -- they grant the  
2     *Daubert* and they give you a second shot.

3             I'm not going to do that. That increases my workload, and  
4     it gives you a second shot.

5             I will let you tweak if I think that it's reasonable on  
6     the margins, so there are times when I let lawyers, you know,  
7     make kind of small -- what I would consider to be small  
8     changes, but I expect the lawyers to be their own judge on  
9     reasonableness. And if you were not and if you don't, you're  
10    going to find yourself without an expert at trial. Okay?

11            Let's see. What other tips for a patent case?

12            I don't have in here any -- in your schedule, there's no  
13    note of ADR, so when are you going to ADR?

14            **MR. CALDWELL:** Your Honor, we have mediated in  
15    December of, I think, 2016. And that wasn't productive. At  
16    the time --

17            **THE COURT:** Right, but a lot's happened since then.

18            **MR. CALDWELL:** I agree with you actually. And I  
19    request -- in fact, we mediated with Judge Infante, and he  
20    actually suggested to us that now based on the positions  
21    which -- the defendants' positions at the time were largely  
22    predicated on the IPR's.

23            **THE COURT:** Yeah.

24            **MR. CALDWELL:** Now that a lot of claims have come  
25    out, he actually recommended to us that we go back to

1 mediation, and we agree.

2 My understanding is Facebook isn't interested at least  
3 until after -- after *Markman*, but I've -- obviously not  
4 speaking for Facebook on that issue.

5 **MR. MORTON:** So for Facebook, we are happy to listen  
6 to any offers that Windy City has and have discussions with  
7 them. But we think mediation would be more productive after  
8 we have a claim construction order.

9 **THE COURT:** Well, what is it, then, that you  
10 learned -- If you didn't learn anything from the IPR process,  
11 why did you go? I mean, what is it that -- that -- the  
12 landscape's now changed. So why aren't you willing to go and  
13 try again at this juncture?

14 **MR. MORTON:** Well, we are willing to try again. We  
15 just think that it would be better to have more information  
16 with a claim construction order before we engage in further  
17 mediation.

18 **THE COURT:** Ms. O'Keefe (phonetic)?

19 **MS. KEEFE:** Your Honor, in terms of what have we  
20 learned, we've learned that a number of the claims are  
21 actually invalid. But that had nothing to do with our  
22 non-infringement positions, which we also had before the IPR  
23 process, and those are still very strong we believe. And that  
24 was also something that we spoke with Judge Infante about.

25 Those decisions can't really be tweaked or changed for

1 both parties until after claim construction. That's why we  
2 think that's the best time.

3 Similarly we're always open to talk. We think just that a  
4 formal mediation would be best served in terms of expense to  
5 the parties after claim construction because of the  
6 non-infringement positions.

7 **THE COURT:** Well, did you challenge the -- the  
8 surviving claims at the -- at the IPR?

9 **MS. KEEFE:** So --

10 **THE COURT:** Because we still have, what --

11 **MS. KEEFE:** There's nine claims left, Your Honor.

12 **THE COURT:** So five with the '245 and four with the  
13 '657.

14 **MS. KEEFE:** That's correct, Your Honor. And those  
15 were challenged with the IPR, and what the Patent Office found  
16 was that we had not shown by a preponderance unpatentability.

17 But nothing regarding infringement or non-infringement  
18 positions was before the PTAB during the IPR. And my point  
19 was that mediation is best served after claim construction  
20 because that's where issues of non-infringement crystallize.

21 We think our position's actually been strengthened with  
22 respect to the claims that have been invalidated, and the ones  
23 that are left are the ones for which we always had strong  
24 non-infringement positions and we think even stronger now.

25 **THE COURT:** And are you both willing to go back to

1 Infante?

2 **MS. KEEFE:** Yes, Your Honor.

3 **MR. CALDWELL:** Yes, Your Honor.

4 **THE COURT:** All right. Well --

5 **MS. KEEFE:** I also know, Your Honor, that he's  
6 taking -- I don't want to call it a sabbatical, but I've been  
7 having a hard time getting on his calendar for spring. He  
8 said he wasn't doing anything until summer anyway, so that  
9 actually fits about in the time period, fortuitously.

10 **THE COURT:** Well, is the question of when I get your  
11 order out depends on whether or not I'm in trial. So what I  
12 would suggest is that you get on his calendar for kind of  
13 mid-September.

14 **MS. KEEFE:** We can do that, Your Honor.

15 **THE COURT:** All right?

16 And then I'll put you on a compliance calendar for two  
17 weeks. Let me know what date you got.

18 **MS. KEEFE:** Thank you, Your Honor.

19 **MR. MORTON:** Thank you.

20 **MR. CALDWELL:** Yes, Your Honor.

21 **THE COURT:** Okay.

22 Questions?

23 **MR. CALDWELL:** Not from the plaintiff, Your Honor.

24 **MR. MORTON:** None from defendant.

25 **THE COURT:** So far it doesn't look like there are any

1 discovery disputes, so hopefully we'll keep it that way,  
2 right?

3 Happy to see everybody, but I don't think you want to be  
4 spending a lot of time in my courtroom which is where you'll  
5 be if you end up in discovery disputes.

6 All right. Safe travels.

7 **MR. CALDWELL:** Thank you, Your Honor.

8 **MR. MORTON:** Thank you, Your Honor.

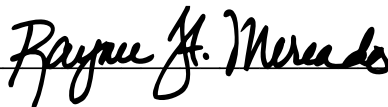
9 **MS. KEEFE:** Thank you, Your Honor.

10 (Proceedings were concluded at 2:30 P.M.)

11 --o0o--

12  
13 **CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER**

14  
15 I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript  
16 from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.  
17 I further certify that I am neither counsel for, related to,  
18 nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this  
19 hearing was taken, and further that I am not financially nor  
20 otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

21  
22 

23 Raynee H. Mercado, CSR, RMR, CRR, FCRR, CCRR

24 Thursday, March 1, 2018